

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR



CITY HALL
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
TEL:(201) 547-5200
FAX:(201) 547-4288

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Feb. 1, 2008

Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-369-0699

Mayor Healy Asks United Water to Conduct A Survey of City Water Supply for Lead Routine Monitoring Shows City Levels for Lead Within EPA Safe Zone

JERSEY CITY – Following the release Thursday of a report that six public schools in the Heights had water fountains that tested positive for high levels of lead, **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy** announced today that he would have **United Water** conduct tests throughout the city's water distribution system.

"We believe this is a situation that is isolated to the affected schools and to certain water fountains within those schools," **Mayor Healy** said. "However, we want parents and residents to know that we are taking every measure possible to address this issue."

United Water officials reported to the Mayor's Office today that the high level of lead found in these schools is most likely due to internal plumbing issues found in older buildings. They referred to a 2006 Consumer Consumption Report conducted by United Water in which samples were taken from throughout the Jersey City water system and which found the lead level to be 12 parts per billion. The EPA sets the level for safe lead levels to be 15 parts per billion.

Immediately following the release of the EPA report regarding the affected schools, School District officials turned off the drinking water supply within those schools. They also provided bottled water for students and staff. Additionally, the School District is re-testing all schools in Jersey City.

Jersey City, much like other older municipalities, is required to treat its water with orthophosphate – a chemical that coats underground pipes and pipes within buildings to prevent lead from leaching into the water system. For the past 10 years, United Water has added orthophosphate into the water supply and routinely tests the water to ensure the proper level of orthophosphate is present. They also routinely test for lead and copper.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-686-7244.

#